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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **FEB 2006**

Applicant : Alexandros Tourapis et al.  
Filed : Herewith  
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MINIMIZING  
NUMBER OF REFERENCE PICTURES USED  
FOR INTER-CODING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
MAIL STOP PCT  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In the US national phase application of PCT/US04/027432 filed  
herewith, please file the following amendments and enter remarks as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.